

**East Central Regional Human Rights Authority
Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2016**

Members Present: Sandra Dixon, Janet Manning, Kelli Martin, Monique Smith and Robin Spalding.

Members Absent: Paulette Brock and Damon Leek

Staff Present: Cathy Wolf and Teresa Parks

Guests Present: None

Chair, Sandra Dixon, called the meeting to order at 4:07 pm. The meeting was held at the State Office Building Conference Room, 2125 S. First Street, Champaign, IL. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present. Dixon read the confidentiality statement and there were no members of the public present.

Minutes: Monique Smith made a motion to approve the November 19, 2015 meeting minutes; Janet Manning seconded the motion and the motion carried. As per Open Meetings Act requirements, the HRA reviewed the executive meeting minutes from the following meetings to determine if they could be published: May 7, 2015, July 23, 2015, September 17, 2015 and November 19, 2015. Due to the contents of the executive minutes not containing any information that would identify a service recipient or an HRA complainant, Kelli Martin made a motion to publish the executive meetings minutes of the May 7, July 23, September 17 and November 19, 2015 meetings. Monique Smith seconded the motion and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Ratifications:

16-060-9014 – Shapiro Developmental Center – A service recipient died while in mechanical restraints and there were no witnesses to her death even though she was to have two staff with her at all times as part of her behavior support plan. An emergency case opening was completed with the approval of Sandra Dixon and two Members. Kelli Martin made a motion to ratify the emergency case acceptance; Sandra Dixon seconded the motion and the motion carried.

New Complaints:

16-060-9008 – Recovery Court – An individual under guardianship has agreed, without her guardian's consent, to "participate" in recovery court. The public defender's office, state's attorney's office and probation department work cooperatively with the court to provide services including mental health services to the individual, but the guardian is not consulted or allowed to participate in any plan of care. Per the public defender's office, there were not aware of any laws that would require them to adhere to the Mental Health Code. A release has been secured. Cathy Wolf attempted to set up a meeting to discuss the situation with recovery court representatives to no avail. Teresa Parks and Cathy Wolf will continue efforts to make inquiries about the situation and involve legal counsel. Case action was put on hold.

16-060-9009 – Recovery Court – Allegedly, another individual under guardianship who is partially blind, schizophrenic with Bipolar Disorder, Epileptic and a history of developmental disabilities has been accused of robbery with a weapon. The individual states he had nothing to do with the crime and the public defender has recommended that he plead guilty. He reportedly fired his public defender and has no representation. The HRA has a release but the legal issues may need a referral elsewhere. Cathy Wolf attempted to refer to Equip for Equality. Teresa Parks and Cathy Wolf spoke with the jail social worker who claims that the individual understands his charges and the process and is not eligible for an Unfit to Stand Trial status even though he has documented disabilities. Teresa Parks and Cathy Wolf will discuss any recourse with legal counsel. Case action was put on hold.

16-060-9010 – 16 Bed Group Home – The complaint states that staff are not removing excess ear wax of a resident and his shoes are old and need replaced. Cathy Wolf reached out to the individual's guardian who reported that the individual has new shoes and he is taken to the doctor regularly for ear wax; the guardian has no concerns regarding the facility's care and disagrees with the complaint statement. Monique Smith made a motion not to accept the complaint for investigation; Kelli Martin seconded the motion and the motion carried.

16-060-9012 – CILA – The complaint alleges that the manager at the home has reduced the amount of time a guardian can call staff to check on an individual to 5 minutes per day and 1 hour per month with managerial staff. Cathy Wolf reported that the complainant has withdrawn the complaint. Monique Smith made a motion not to accept the complaint; Kelli Martin seconded the motion and the motion carried.

16-060-9013 – Behavioral Health Hospital – The complaint alleges that an individual receiving service was overcharged regarding co-pays and coinsurance. The Coordinator explained ways of challenging the billing issue and that this may be beyond the HRA's scope. The individual was to call back if she wanted the HRA's assistance. There has been no follow-up from the complainant since the HRA's initial review in November 2015 and the HRA has no release. Kelli Martin made a motion not to accept the complaint for investigation; Robin Spalding seconded the motion and the motion carried.

16-060-9015 – County Jail – The complaint alleges the lack of mental health services and food concerns. There is no release. The HRA agreed to table case action to determine if a release can be obtained.

Cathy Wolf reported that she received another intake regarding a complicated situation involving frozen account during a Power of Attorney determination that may be beyond the HRA's scope. She attempted to reach the intake caller to discuss the matter but there was no call-back; therefore, no action was taken by the HRA.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Monique Smith made a motion to go into closed session at 5:08 p.m. pursuant to the Guardianship and Advocacy Commission Act (20 ILCS 3955/21) and the Open Meetings Act (5

ILCS 120/2) to discuss confidential case details regarding the following cases: #15-060-9010; 16-060-9001; 16-060-9003; 16-060-9005; 16-060-9007; 16-060-9014; 15-060-9003; 15-060-9008; and 15-060-9009. Robin Spalding seconded the motion and the motion carried. The HRA returned to open session at 5:17 pm having taken no action in closed session. A summary of case discussion follows.

Case Progress Reports

15-060-9010 – St. Mary’s Hospital – The investigation is completed and the case is ready for a report.

16-060-9001 – Thresholds Kankakee – The record has been requested and a site visit is needed.

16-060-9003 – Presence Covenant Medical Center – The site visit is scheduled with Sandra Dixon and Janet Manning participating.

16-060-9005 – Central Illinois Service Access – A site visit is scheduled with Kelli Martin participating.

16-060-9007 – Advocate BroMenn Medical Center – A site visit is scheduled.

16-060-9014 – Shapiro Developmental Center – A site visit is needed.

Reports of Findings

15-060-9003 – Kankakee Terrace – Cathy Wolf is working on the report and it is not yet ready for the HRA’s review.

15-060-9008 – McLean County Center for Human Services – A draft report was reviewed in executive session. Upon returning to open session, Kelly Martin made a motion to approve the draft report; Sandra Dixon seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Case Closure

15-060-9009 – Chestnut Health Systems – There was no response and none was required due to unsubstantiated findings. Robin Spalding made a motion to close the case and make the report public; Monique Smith seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Other Unfinished Business: None.

Announcements and Comments: The next meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2016.

Adjournment: Janet Manning made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Sandra Dixon, and approved by all. The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Parks